

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final Office Action mailed March 25, 2008. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and pending claims are respectfully requested.

I. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

A. Rejection of Claims 1-5, 8, 11-15, 17, 19, and 20

Claims 1-5, 8, 11-15, 17, 19, and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kurishita, et al.* ("Kurishita," U.S. Pat. No. 7,100,198) in view of *Kawamoto, et al.* ("Kawamoto," U.S. Pat. No. 6,120,197). Applicant respectfully traverses.

As identified above, Applicant has amended each remaining independent claim through this Response. In view of those amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections are moot.

Turning to the merits of Applicant's claims, Applicant notes that neither applied reference discloses or suggests generating a digital signature by encrypting with a private key control information and then generating a signed request that requests changing of the printing mode, the signed request including the digital signature. While Kurishita describes "security printing," he says nothing of such a "signed request".

As a further matter, neither reference discloses or suggests validating the signed request by decrypting with a public key and comparing the decrypted control information with other information to determine if they match. Again, although Kurishita

describes security printing, he says nothing of signed requests, or decrypting and comparing digital signatures of such requests.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that Applicant's remaining independent claims are allowable over Kurishita and Kawamoto. Applicant believes that Applicant's remaining dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons.

B. Rejection of Claims 6, 7, 9, 10, 16, 18, 21, and 22

Claims 6, 7, 9, 10, 16, 18, 21, and 22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kurishita* and *Kawamoto* as applied to claim 1 and further in view of *Slick, et al.* ("Slick," U.S. Pat. No. 7,111,322). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

As identified above, Kurishita and Kawamoto do not teach aspects of Applicant's claims. In that Slick does not remedy the deficiencies of the Kurishita and Kawamoto references, Applicant respectfully submits that remaining claims 21 and 22 are allowable over the Kurishita/Kawamoto/Slick combination for at least the same reasons that claim 20 is allowable over Kurishita/Kawamoto.

II. Canceled Claims

Claims 2, 3, 6-10, 14, and 16-18 have been canceled from the application without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Applicant reserves the right to present these canceled claims, or variants thereof, in continuing applications to be filed subsequently.

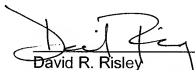
III. New Claims

Claims 36 and 37 have been added into the application through this Response. Applicant respectfully submits that these new claims describe an invention novel and unobvious in view of the prior art of record and, therefore, respectfully requests that these claims be held to be allowable.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that Applicant's pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,



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